
CASTLES AND CATHEDRALS

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RAc5jusxYIE&feature=relmfu> (first 15 minutes)

- This was the Age of the _____.
- Which castle shaped the course of Medieval history?

- What were castles first made out of? _____ and _____
- What was unique about Rochester castle? _____

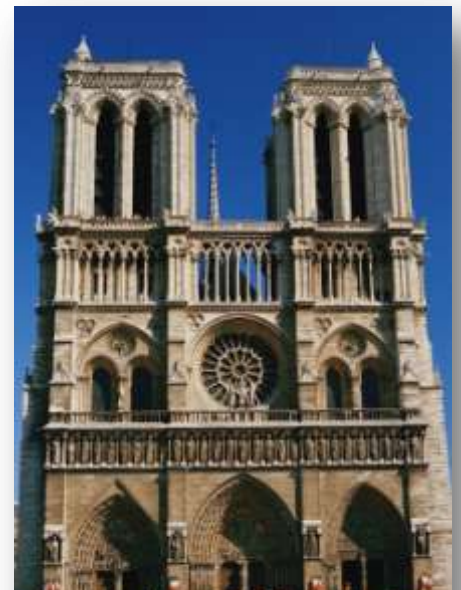
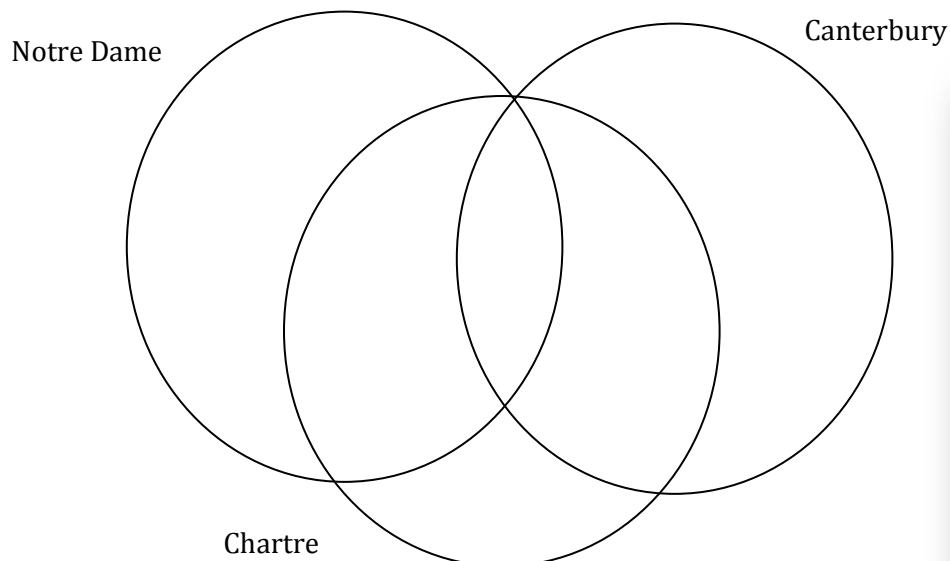
- What is a bailey?
- Why was there a need for a castle?

- How many stone towers were constructed in England? _____
- How many years did it take to build Rochester castle? _____
- What room was the focus of the activity for the Lord and his Lady? _____



Compare and Contrast the Three Cathedrals: Canterbury, Chartres, and Notre Dame.

<http://www.learner.org/interactives/middleages/cathinfo.html>



CATHEDRALS

Canterbury

In 597 Pope Gregory sent the Benedictine monk Augustine to Canterbury to introduce Christianity. Augustine consecrated an existing Roman church, Christ's Church, in 601, but it burned down in 1067, just after the Norman Conquest. The present cathedral was begun in that same year by Archbishop Lanfranc, a friend of William the Conqueror. It is a combination of styles: Romanesque, Early Gothic, and Late Gothic. In 1174, fire destroyed parts of this cathedral, but it was rebuilt once again.

After the death of Thomas Becket in 1170, the cathedral became the most famous center of pilgrimage in England. Becket's shrine was dismantled by Henry VIII in 1538, but has been reconstructed. During the Reformation, the Archbishop of Canterbury became the head of the Church of England.

The current nave was begun in 1373. It is one of the finest examples of the English Perpendicular style. (Others include King's College, Cambridge, founded by Henry VI and the Oxford Divinity School, now part of the Bodleian Library.) This style creates a light and airy atmosphere through the use of tall piers with vertical subdivisions and tall windows with vertical traceries. The roof vaulting, which includes short ribs between the long ones to produce star shapes, was an English innovation.

Chartres

The Chartres cathedral, with its exceptional stained glass and 375-foot-tall north tower, is one of the world's most graceful medieval cathedrals. It is the first example of a cathedral that has tall windows in the clerestory and high vaults in the aisles, instead of galleries above the aisles (as at Notre Dame). These features became hallmarks of the High Gothic style. The site had been a place of worship in pagan times, and the cathedral existed in the Carolingian era. All that remains from that period is the central part of the crypt.

The church burned down in 1194 (for the second time), but was rebuilt with the addition of a transept. In 1220 the building was complete except for the facades of the transept and their porticos. In all, the cathedral took 66 years to complete, including revisions. Other features were added later, such as the north tower, which is significantly higher than its neighboring tower, giving the cathedral an asymmetrical look.

Three rows of buttresses support the rib vaults of the nave. The rose window of the south transept possesses almost all of its original stained glass, making it unique among Gothic cathedrals. Chartres displays a new type of triforium elevation, a format that was to be mimicked in later Gothic cathedrals. Earlier elevations consisted of three sections or stories: the main arcade (aisles), large arched galleries (vaulted), and the clerestory.

Chartres contains only two main stories, thus allowing for much higher clerestory windows, measuring 23 feet.

Notre Dame

One of the first cathedrals to incorporate flying buttresses, Notre Dame has a rich history. Emperors, kings, and queens were crowned at Notre Dame. Its halls were plundered in times of war, and at one point it was nearly burned. Construction was authorized by Maurice de Sully in 1160, but was not completed during his 36 years as bishop. The work went on for decades and improvements continued to be made even centuries later.

There were several stages of construction. Pope Alexander III laid the cornerstone in 1163. The choir, started that same year and finished in 1182, was followed by the transept and nave, which were completed in 1200. The facade was begun in 1190 but not completed until 1250. In 1250, the cathedral's towers and facade were finally finished, with a foundation 30 feet deep and a finished length of 402 feet. The ribbed vault was more than 108 feet high, an exceptional height for this period.

Large stained glass windows were used to increase the amount of light admitted. The rose window, 32 feet in diameter, is situated above a statue of the Virgin and Child. The interior is shaped like a cross. The portals have three-dimensional statues integrated into the architecture. A neighboring church, St. Etienne, was torn down in 1218 and the relics were transferred to the new cathedral. Notre Dame became a center of music; some of the greatest works of medieval polyphony were written here during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries by its two music directors, Leonin and his successor Perotin.

HOMES



Most medieval homes were cold, damp, and dark. Sometimes it was warmer and lighter outside the home than within its walls. For security purposes, windows, when they were present, were very small openings with wooden shutters that were closed at night or in bad weather. The small size of the windows allowed those inside to see out, but kept outsiders from looking in.

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Many peasant families ate, slept, and spent time together in very small quarters, rarely more than one or two rooms. The houses had thatched roofs and were easily destroyed.